

to specialists, which would rapidly deplete the fund allocated by the HMO for the patient pool, then the physicians can take the remaining funds for themselves. How can anyone consider that this current business practice is in the interest of the patient?

Another area of current medical business practice is the financial involvement of the physician in the pharmaceutical industry. How can a clinical study be considered unbiased when the principle investigator is a share holder in the corporation that is financing the clinical study?

Can a corporation that owns a series of clinics and hospitals in a neighborhood decide to close one or more of them on the grounds that this will decrease competition? Is a hospital to be viewed in the same ethical way as any other corporation? As an extension of the patient-physician relationship and its special and sacred relationship that has existed from ancient time, it follows that the corporation that owns a hospital has a moral obligation to promote the general welfare.

In summary, current business models and practices are not consistent with the ideal "to promote the general welfare." Hospitals and HMO's have a unique role in our society, and with that unique role come unique responsibility. I believe that the only conclusion that reasonable people can hold is that hospitals and medical corporations must be held to a higher standard of ethics and social responsibility than other corporations.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL COMMUNICATORS OF TOMORROW CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 18, 2000

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Agricultural Communicator of Tomorrow for celebrating 30 years. This organization, comprised of college students from across the nation, plays an important role in developing skills students need to excel in the communications field. ACT provides students with the opportunity to network with ag communications professionals and attend seminars and meetings to learn more about possible career choices. Individuals with an agricultural communications degree have the task of educating and informing the public about agriculture. As Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, I know firsthand the value of having such advocates and voices promoting American agriculture, and ACT gives students a chance to expand upon these abilities.

Twenty-three students from seven universities formed ACT in July 1970 at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. Currently, ACT has grown to include 21 chapters with over 351 members nationwide, including a chapter in Puerto Rico.

Many professional communication organizations support ACT. These "parent organizations" provide guidance, act as mentors, and serve as a resource for students to utilize when looking for employment. The National ACT organization holds a national convention each year in conjunction with one of its parent organizations and is participating in the U.S.

Agricultural Communicators Congress occurring in Washington, DC July 23–26. At the convention, students are given the opportunity to compete in contest categories such as black and white photography, feature story writing, page layout and design, video editing, and present a public relations campaign. These contests allow students the opportunity not only to compete, but to showcase their work to future employers.

ACT has been instrumental in preparing our students for the future. As the population continues to grow and fewer people are involved with production agriculture, it is imperative that organizations like ACT play a prominent role in educating consumers. ACT members have the ability to inform the public about the value, diversity, and importance of American agricultural products in today's society.

I want to recognize the National Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow on their 30th birthday, applaud them for their outstanding achievements, and wish them continued success in all of their activities.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 4857

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 18, 2000

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to join with Congressman SHAW to introduce bipartisan legislation to help restrict the use of individuals' Social Security Numbers by both the public sector and the private sector. Our legislation builds upon a number of bills introduced by House Democrats earlier this session. I'd like to thank Congressmen ED MARKEY, GERRY KLECZKA, and BOB WISE for their contributions on the privacy protection issue and for introducing exemplary legislation on the topic this Congress.

The Social Security number is almost as old as the program itself. Created in 1936 to keep track of workers' earning records, the uses of the Social Security number have since extended far beyond its original intent, to the point where it is now commonly used as a personal identifier.

Indeed, the Social Security number is increasingly used as the key to unlocking some of people's most vital—and most private—financial information. Its prevalence in today's society helps facilitate the host of private and public transactions in which people engage every day. That same prevalence, however, leaves people exceptionally vulnerable when their SSN's fall into the hands of those who wish to exploit that information for their own gain.

While we should be aware of the contributions that the use of the SSN makes to program administration and to business efficiency, we must be careful that we do not allow some of our most fundamental rights—the right to privacy and the right to control our personal information—to be abridged in the name of expediency. Our legislation strikes the correct balance.

Our bill would prohibit Federal, State, or local government entities from selling lists of people's SSN's and would prohibit government entities from displaying SSN's to the general public—for example, on drivers' licenses or on government checks.

Just as importantly, our bill would restrict private businesses' use of the SSN. Just as the Clinton Administration proposed earlier this year, our bill would authorize the Federal Trade Commission to ban the inappropriate sale or purchase of Social Security numbers.

Our bill also prohibits businesses from requiring that you disclose your Social Security number in order to do business with them.

Just as our bill enhances privacy protections, it also provides new protections for Social Security beneficiaries who rely on representative payees to manage their finances.

Social Security beneficiaries who rely on representative payees to receive their benefits and to complete financial transactions on their behalf represent some of the most vulnerable members of our society. They are the very young, the very sick, and the very old. They are individuals who live in nursing homes and in State mental hospitals.

Thus, when representative payees misuse the funds that have been entrusted to their care, they are not simply defrauding the Social Security Trust Funds—they are harming the very people that Social Security was designed to help.

Our bill would help prevent the misuse of beneficiaries' funds and would make it easier for beneficiaries to be compensated in the event that their funds are misappropriated. Our bill would require SSA to re-issue benefit payments to beneficiaries in all cases in which "fee-for-service" representative payees have misused the funds entrusted to their care; strengthen the requirements fee-for-service organizations must meet in order to act as a representative payee; prohibit organizations from receiving fees for serving as a representative payee for any month in which that organization is found to have misused beneficiaries' funds; and finally, treat any misused benefits as an overpayment to the representative payee and, therefore, allow SSA to use the collection tools at its disposal to recover such overpayments.

I want to thank my colleagues again for this bipartisan effort and I urge my colleagues to join us as cosponsors of this important legislation.

A TRIBUTE IN THE MEMORY OF MARSHA CORPREW OF OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 18, 2000

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a great sense of loss as I pay tribute to Ms. Marsha Corprew, a prominent Oaklander and educational leader, who left us on July 3, 2000 at the age of 51.

Ms. Corprew was a resident of the West Oakland community for all her life. After graduating from Oakland public schools, Ms. Corprew attended Merritt Community College and California State University, Hayward. She completed her class work at the University of Hawaii and the University of California, Berkeley. After her years of education, Ms. Corprew returned to the community and through the course of her life, she donated a generous amount of time and energy to keeping her community alive.